

What: Callaway Plaza Dedication  
When: April 26, 1996

Good afternoon. It is with great pleasure that I participate in the dedication of a plaza honoring one of Tech's greatest men—Fuller E. Callaway Jr.

Fuller E. Callaway Jr. was a man who set an example of achievement and generosity for thousands of other Tech students. His life's work reflect an excellence worthy of inspiration and aspiration.

Fuller E. Callaway Jr. was a rare man—one who made a great difference to his alma mater during his lifetime—and who continues to do so after his death.

While a student at Georgia Tech, he was a member of ANAK, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Psi, and ROTC. As an alumnus, he more than repaid the "debt" he said he owed Georgia Tech for his education. Along with two other alumni, he helped found the Georgia Tech Research Corporation, serving as president of that organization and trustee emeritus. He also served on the Foundation, including stints as Foundation president and trustee emeritus. In addition, he is a recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Service Award, the highest alumni award at Georgia Tech.

When he was presented with the award in 1949, he was described as "a distinguished son of a distinguished family, a brilliant man of business, an outstanding industrialist, a leader of scientific research in the South, a diligent citizen in behalf of community betterment, an unselfish contributor to the welfare of your fellow man, friend, and alumni leader of your alma mater."

Fuller E. Callaway Jr. left his mark upon Georgia Tech in many ways. Not only through his service and example, but through generous gifts. I personally am extremely grateful he saw fit to help out with the building of a certain home on 10th Street.

His gifts, given in cooperation with his wife, Alice, reflect his dedication to the well-rounded student. The Callaway family contributed funds for the building of the Manufacturing Research Center, the Student Galleria, and the Edge Intercollegiate Center. The Callaway family also helped with the construction of married student housing, the renovation of the Alumni/Faculty House, and the creation and development of the Student Athletic Complex—named for Fuller E. Callaway III, a Tech graduate and the son of Fuller Callaway Jr.

Through the Fuller E. Callaway Memorial fund set up through the Foundation, Callaway gifts contribute to the future of the Institute by funding National Merit Scholarships for Tech students.

In addition, the Fuller E. Callaway Jr. Fund of the Foundation is currently maintained as one of the pooled funds of the Foundation—bolstering our endowment.

Callaway family gifts also contribute to the excellence of Georgia Tech's faculty. In 1968, at 33 colleges across Georgia, 40 professional chairs were funded—including four at Georgia Tech—through a \$10 million gift. At that time, the gift was the largest private donation to education in the history of the state.

As you can see, Fuller E. Callaway Jr. has left an undeniable legacy for the future of the state of Georgia and especially for

Georgia Tech students. His wisdom and generosity will help us to improve the Institute for many years to come.

I would now like to read to you the inscription noted on the plaque bearing his name. It reads:

In Memory of Fuller E. Callaway Jr.  
(1907 - 1992)

For His Devotion and Commitment to Georgia Tech

Fuller E. Callaway Jr. received his bachelor's degree in textile engineering in 1926. After a year of further study, he entered the textile business and for the next few years served as an officer of several textile companies controlled by the Callaway family. Fuller became chief executive officer of Callaway Mills at the age of 28 and was its guiding force for more than three decades. In 1947, he announced that he was taking a ten-year leave of absence to get a fresh perspective on what was important to him. In 1958, he came back as chairman of the board and served in that capacity until the mills were sold to Deering Milliken Inc. in 1968. He organized Callaway Foundation, Inc., a grant-making private foundation in 1943. In 1946, he and two other Tech alumni established the Georgia Tech Research Corporation. His personal gifts and contributions from Callaway Foundation, totaling millions of dollars, have funded professorships, scholarships, and numerous facilities for students on the Tech campus. Callaway was an internationally recognized leader in the textile industry.